

Rotary Club of Canterbury
Minutes of Club Business Meeting held on Tuesday 1st July 2025 at the Kent and Canterbury Club

1. **Welcome:** President Raj welcomed members to the first meeting of his Presidential year.
2. **Apologies** for absence had been received from Maxine Blades.
3. **Thought for the Day** was given by Robert Yonge.
4. **Awards:** President Raj made the following awards:

Robert Yonge – Service Recognition Award
Peter Hermitage – Paul Harris Sapphire Award
Andrew Clague – Rotarian of the Year award

5. **Almoner/Health Report:** In the absence of the Almoner Raj reported that Jim Gascoyne is still in hospital but sent greetings. Brian Dobinson is recovering well from recent surgery. It is understood that Leonard Rae is unwell.
6. **Minutes** of the Business Meeting held 3rd June 2025 had been circulated in advance and were agreed.
 - a. Matters arising:
 - i. Lewis Norris has accepted Honorary membership.
 - ii. Safari Supper had been a very enjoyable evening for those who participated.
7. **Secretary's Business:**
 - a. May membership 48 Active members, 2 Honorary members.
 - b. Membership analysis: Martin had prepared a detailed analysis of the present Club membership which had been circulated in advance.
8. **Presidents' Matters:-**
 - a. Club Council Minutes of the 16th June Meeting had been circulated in advance.
 - b. The Point: Stephen reported that The Council are requiring us to deal with 5 snagging items. He and Andrew are seeking to finalise the account with the main contractor. Two unforeseen problems have arisen due to people emptying their water bottles prior to refilling from The Point. In consequence the stonework is discolouring and the pavement is becoming wet. A stainless steel plate is being made to protect the stonework and the situation regarding the wet pavement will be monitored.
 - c. Pentangular Weekend: Raj reported that the weekend in Leuven had been very well organised and was very enjoyable.
 - d. Cooperation with other clubs
 - i. Bat & Trap evening at Ye Olde Beverlie on 19th August will also be attended by the MGSE participants and other local Clubs. The Sunrise Club have organised another Bat & Trap evening at The Golden Lion on the 9th September to which we have been invited.
 - e. District update:
 - i. District Conference in Eastbourne in October is now only a 2 day event and Maxine hopes to attend on the Saturday.
9. **Duck Race 2025:**
 - a. Main Race update: Stephen will be sending out Duck sale sheets to members at the end of July. Richard is organising the Duck sales teams. City Council permit has been applied for and Environment Agency informed.

- b. **Corporate Duck Race:** Roger outlined to the Club the proposals for a separate Corporate Duck race to precede the main race. 240 larger ducks have been purchased and will be offered for sale at £25 each or a Gold Package of 10 for £250 to include joining in a flotilla of 6 punts before the race with The Lord Mayor in the leading punt; advertising in a separate brochure and incorporation in the Club's Social media. The cost of the 6 punts will be £300 and there will be 20 Corporate seats to be sold.

As a separate issue Roger had been able to source a supply of small ducks which could be sold to those asking in pre race day sales. The cost is 50p per duck and it was agreed to buy 180 in the first instance to be sold at £2 each. It was agreed that these should not be sold on race day to avoid them being placed in the river at the event. They are not intended to be race ducks.

- 10. **Strode Park Rainbow Room Refurbishment Project:** Julie reported that Malini is away at present and they wish to meet with Andrew on her return to discuss this proposal.

11. **MGSE Martin:**

- a. Meeting of 2025 Hosting Committee update:
 - i. Accommodation for the 11 participants has now been offered.
 - ii. The Programme is now complete and will conclude with a supper on the 23rd August.
 - iii. Help will be needed with transport to and from events and Raj will circulate the detailed programme asking for volunteers. Martin will contact the Prince of Wales Youth Club to check the availability of their Minibus.

- 12. **Pentangular JPP6 outline:** Graham spoke to the paper (circulated in advance) from Ludenschied Club detailing the proposals for the JPP6 project to provide PTSD support for civilians from Ukraine in conjunction with a Rotary Club in Poland. 50% of the support will be provided face to face and the remainder through VR headsets. It is hoped to support 2,000 in the first year rising to 6,000 in year 3. This is an outstanding project with considerable costs involved and both District and International grants will be applied for but Clubs are also asked to seek additional funds where possible – either personal or corporate.

- 13. **Treasurers report** with financial reports as at 12th June 2025: Tony reported that work is in hand completing the Financial year ended 30th June and he will report to the next Club Council meeting and the Club Business meeting. He expressed gratitude to members who had paid their annual subscriptions that day as requested.

- 14. **Community Services Group Update:** Richard advised that he will report in due course on the Group's plans for the year ahead.

- 15. **Vocational Group Update:** Alan reported that The Innovation Competition had been a great success. Volunteers are needed for Children's Literacy Festival 11th – 13th July.

- 16. **International Group Update:** Graham asked that Club members who believe they are in this Group advise him so that he can arrange a meeting.

- 17. **Membership Update:** Robert reported that he is in dialogue with 2 further possible members but at only an early stage.

- 18. **Corporate membership Pilot Update:** Andrew reported that he has one possible Corporate member in mind and will forward his draft letter to Robert for comment.

- 19. **AOB:** Stephen advised the Club that it is proposed to hold another Fund Raising dinner at Kingston Village Hall on 24th October and a suitable speaker is being sought.

Julie reminded the Club that 23rd October is Rotary World Polio Day.

Stephen also reminded the Club of the invitation extended by the Royal British Legion to join their party visiting the Arboretum National Memorial on the 7th and 8th October.

Andrew advised the Club that he had recently met a visitor from a Wiesbaden Club who hoped to bring a party of 30 to visit the Club on 5th May 2026 and had presented the Club with a pennant.

20. Updated Club Programme July 2025:

- a. 8th July – Evening Speaker meeting, Paul Whitfield Wildwood Trust, Abbots Barton
- b. 15th July – Lunchtime meeting, MGSE Presentation by Hallie, TBC
- c. 29th July – Lunchtime Business Meeting, Kent & Canterbury Club
- d. 5th August – Lunch at Richard and Cora Kemball-Cook's.

21. Rotary the World Over Toast

RWV 01.07.25